



# Glenn ANDERSON

SPRING 2008

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STATE SENATOR

## How to Contact Me



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*Hello Neighbor,*

*The first six months of 2008 have gotten off to a strong, productive start. I helped pass several bills that will help struggling homeowners avoid foreclosure, fought to pass legislation that protects jobs for veterans, and co-sponsored two new bills that provide vital financial support for senior citizens and the family members who take care of them.*

*This newsletter is intended to update residents on what has been going on in Lansing since January. I also wanted to share some information with families who may be planning summer vacations, since now is a great time to get out and enjoy all that Michigan has to offer.*

*While representing you in Lansing, I work diligently to maintain an open line of communication. I continue hosting monthly coffee hours, sending regular e-newsletters and mailings, hosting town hall meetings, and visiting many of you at your homes. The Community Survey, in which over 1,100 participated, has now been tallied and the results posted online. You may view the results on my website at [www.senate.mi.gov/anderson](http://www.senate.mi.gov/anderson).*

*It is an honor and a privilege to serve you in the Michigan Senate. Thank you for your time. I look forward to hearing from you.*

*Sincerely,*

Glenn S. Anderson  
State Senator • 6th District

## E-Newsletter



**I** have a regular legislative update available to those I represent that can be received by e-mail. If you are interested in the most up-to-date information on what is happening in Lansing, sign up for my free, regular E-newsletter. You can sign up by visiting my website at [www.senate.mi.gov/Anderson](http://www.senate.mi.gov/Anderson) and clicking on E-newsletter Sign-Up on the left side of the home page.

# LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

## Foreclosure Prevention:

One of the most important issues we have worked to address this year is Michigan's ongoing housing crisis. Since the start of this year, the Senate has passed several bills I co-sponsored that will regulate loan officers and bring greater accountability to the mortgage industry, and offer consumers new loan products through the Michigan State Housing Development Authority to transition into affordable fixed-rate mortgages.

This April, I also hosted a town hall meeting in Livonia to give members of the community an opportunity to meet with financial experts so they could get advice on keeping their homes. My hope is that these recent actions will help consumers who are currently facing foreclosure keep their homes, and protect prospective homebuyers from unscrupulous lenders and future financial hardships.



*Senator Anderson discusses foreclosure prevention with the community at a town hall meeting in Livonia.*

## Film Incentives Bring New Jobs:

This March, I co-sponsored several bills in an exciting new package of legislation that created the most generous slate of film incentives in the country. These bills have since been signed into law, and have already spurred film production plans and film-related new jobs to the state.

The economic ripple effect of a television or movie production in the state could translate into hundreds of millions of dollars for local businesses, including hotels, restaurants, caterers and retail shops. Given the economic challenges our state is currently facing, these incentives will ultimately help us transform our economy and create jobs.



## Financial Support for Senior Citizens:

This spring, I co-sponsored two new bills that will provide vital financial support for senior citizens and the family members who take care of them. Senate Bill 1273 would establish a tax credit for residents who care for their natural or adoptive parents in their own homes for 180 days or more in a calendar year. The second bill, SB 1274, would ensure that senior citizens who are living away from home in order to receive care—such as at a nursing home or in a family member's home—will still qualify for the principal residence property tax exemption on the home they own.

Caring for our parents as they grow older is a selfless act of compassion, and it also can be a tremendous challenge and sacrifice. These bills help give families additional resources to provide for their loved ones, and also ensure that the unique living situations of seniors are sufficiently considered and accommodated.

## Support for Veterans:

In April, I co-hosted two seminars in Westland to discuss various benefits programs that are available to American veterans. Many times veterans are not aware of the programs that are available to help them find work and get back on their feet after completing their military service.

That is why I was pleased to co-sponsor Senate Bill 192 this February, which passed both chambers with unanimous support and would create new job protections for our returning veterans. Under the new law, veterans will have an easier time returning to work after completing their service, and have new legal protections to seek damages against employers who violate the re-employment statute.



# EDUCATION UPDATE

## Protecting Higher Ed Savings Plans:

**T**his March, I introduced a bill that would exempt higher education savings plans, such as the Michigan Education Trust (MET), from enforcement of court judgments or bankruptcy. The legislation would add Michigan to a growing list of states that offer similar protections, including Ohio, Illinois, Tennessee, New York, North Carolina, Oklahoma and Oregon.



Since joining the Senate, I have fought for legislation to address many of the non-tuition expenses students pay. Last September, I hosted a town hall meeting in Livonia with other state officials to provide local residents with

information about MET and the Michigan Education Savings Plan (MESP). For more information on MET, please visit [www.setwithmet.com](http://www.setwithmet.com). Likewise, for more information on MESP, be sure to visit [www.misaves.com](http://www.misaves.com).

## Michigan Promise Scholarship:

**I**n 2006, as a member of the State House, I was pleased to help pass the Michigan Promise Scholarship. This program provides up to \$4,000 to high school graduates for successfully completing two years of postsecondary education. Along with a MET or MESP savings account, the Michigan Promise Scholarship is a great way to offset rising tuition costs.

To claim the Michigan Promise Scholarship installment payment for use in the 2008-09 academic year, an eligible student must certify his/her scholarship by November 15, 2008. More information on eligibility and payments is available at [www.Michigan.gov/promise](http://www.Michigan.gov/promise), where students can also download the application form. You can also contact the Michigan Promise Scholarship program, Office of Scholarships and Grants, toll-free at 1-888-4-GRANTS (1-888-447-2687) or e-mail [osg@michigan.gov](mailto:osg@michigan.gov).

## More Funding for Schools With Declining Enrollment:

**T**his March, I pushed for and helped successfully pass an amendment to the School Aid budget that will stimulate success in Michigan schools. The amendment will provide an additional \$5 million to help schools with declining enrollment, since many districts throughout the state—including Westland and Livonia—have lost students due to job losses and outsourcing. Keeping our classrooms full, our curriculum engaging, and challenging students from start to finish are essential steps to building a 21st Century workforce.

## Anderson Participates in Teacher Exchange Program:

**I**n April I participated in the “Livonia Business-Teacher Connection,” an annual exchange program organized by the Livonia Chamber of Commerce and Livonia Public Schools. Dona Gossett, a 5th grade teacher at Riley Elementary School in Livonia, job shadowed me at the State Capitol in Lansing and was formally introduced during the day’s Senate session.

For my part of the exchange, I spent a morning with Ms. Gossett’s students and taught a classroom lesson about how a bill becomes a law. It really was a pleasure to see firsthand what classroom life is like for dedicated teachers like Dona. It was a great reminder of why we need to make sure teachers in our area have the resources they need to prepare kids for higher education and 21st Century jobs.





State Senator

**Glenn Anderson**

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## SUMMER TRAVEL RESOURCES

*Summer is just a few weeks away, so now is the time to start planning family vacations. We all know Michigan's abundant natural resources make our state a great place to explore, so I wanted to share some travel resources to help make your summer trips more enjoyable this year.*

### Tips on Gas Prices:

**Y**ou can find the best local gas prices, file a complaint if you suspect gas gouging and get tips on driving alternatives at [www.michigan.gov/gasprice](http://www.michigan.gov/gasprice). Another good non-governmental site for checking current gas prices is [www.gasbuddy.com](http://www.gasbuddy.com).

### Make Travel Plans:

**F**or information on Michigan's various travel locations, find places to stay and get ideas for things to do with your family, visit our official state tourism website at [www.Michigan.org](http://www.Michigan.org).

### Road Construction:

**F**or information on road construction, surf over to [www.mi.gov/mdot](http://www.mi.gov/mdot) to find a link that will provide you up-to-date information on road projects to make your drive smoother.

### Explore the Great Outdoors:

**Y**ou can find maps of state parks, forests and trails, search for state parks, download state park motor vehicle permits, and research campsite amenities and fees by visiting [www.michigan.gov/dnr](http://www.michigan.gov/dnr).

### Michigan Festivals & Events:

**T**he Michigan Festivals & Events Association helps promote hundreds of community activities for residents and visitors. You can search for local events at [www.michiganfun.com](http://www.michiganfun.com).

### Farmers Markets:

**T**he Michigan Farmers Market website, hosted by Michigan State University, is a central resource for the consumers, growers and market managers of Michigan Farmers Markets. Find a local market in your area at [www.farmersmarkets.msu.edu](http://www.farmersmarkets.msu.edu).

### Michigan Trivia for Kids:

**W**ith kids out of school this summer, here's a great way to keep them occupied and learning each day. You can find history, facts and trivia about our state by visiting [www.michigan.gov/hal](http://www.michigan.gov/hal) and clicking on "Things to Do."